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Council planners reveal how the Government guidelines 'take precedence over local opinion'

BUILDING BOOM

By Alex Wynick

BANBURY'S housing-building boom is set to continue, as Cherwell District Council has admitted that there needs to be a greater number of homes earmarked in its planning policy blueprint.

Fears that developers would win at appeal means that the council is granting permission for more homes to be built in the Banbury area.

The council's development plan, or "Local Plan", had not included enough new homes to fit with Government guidelines, so developers are being given permission against the planning committee's wishes.

And now comes the news that 100,000 more homes need to be built in Oxfordshire by 2031, according to a major new report that will shake up future planning policy even further.

It means councils across the whole of Oxfordshire could now have to build almost double the number of homes they previously thought were needed.

Last month five vetoes handed out by Cherwell's planning committee were overturned by the Planning Inspectorate.

Michael Gibbard, the council's planning chief, said: "We are bound by Government guidelines to deliver a specific number of new homes over the next five years – and there is a shortfall.

"If we don't approve what the Government considers to be a suitable development site, we will not be able to defend our decision at an appeal. This means the houses will still receive planning consent, but with all the legal costs falling to the council."

Last week the planning committee gave permission for a mixture of 59 new homes to be built in Adderbury, having deferred the decision for a month.

It is a controversial decision, with 321 people having written to object to the homes being built on Aynho Road.

Adderbury Parish Council said the development would clash with existing

homes in the area and cause problems with local schools.

Mr Gibbard said: "We must follow Government recommendations, and the guidelines have to take precedence over local opinion."

The committee has also given the go-ahead for Cherwell District Council's own development project in Banbury.

Four sites in Banbury, Bicester and Claydon were approved to build 48 new properties as part of the Build! project – where many hopeful homeowners step in with their DIY skills to construct their own homes for a knockdown price.

In Banbury, consent was given to convert and alter an existing Grade II building at Juniper Court in St John's Road. The revamped building will provide four two-bedroom properties, which will be sold on an equity loan basis.

Councillors also approved a proposal to use land adjacent to 131 Causeway in Grimsbury to provide one detached dwelling.

Despite the need for housing in Banbury, the planning committee has not granted permission for every application.

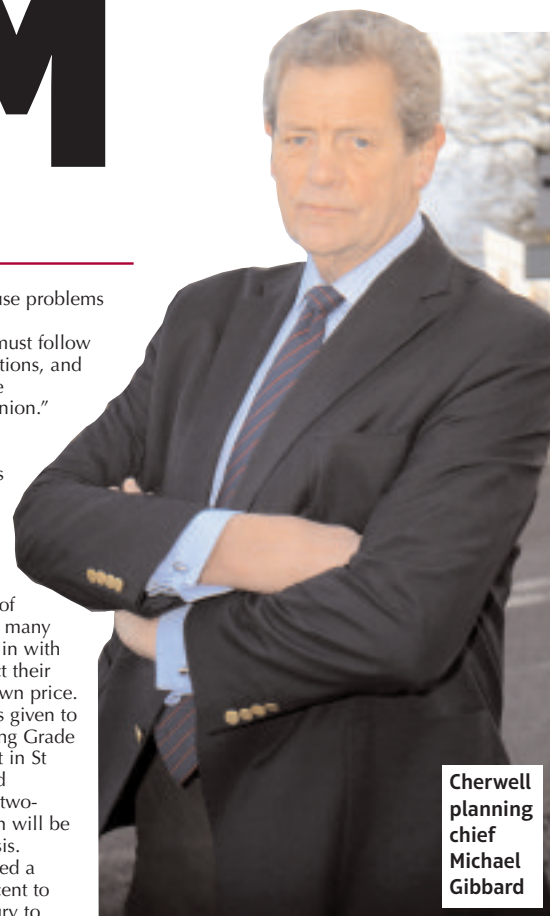
Last week it rejected an application to build 117 homes on the edge of Banbury, calling it a "sporadic and unsustainable" extension of the town's boundary.

Councillors said the development on land north east of Crouch Hill Farm would be harmful to the historical Crouch Hill.

The plan had received 33 letters of objection from residents and councillors.

Mr Gibbard said: "While it is accepted by

● Continued, Page 3



Cherwell planning chief Michael Gibbard

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ALL WINDOWS MANUFACTURED IN BANBURY

InBRIEF

Ex-MP to speak at Rotary event

■ FORMER MP Martin Bell OBE, pictured, will be talking to the Banbury Black Tie Club this month at a rotary event to raise funds for Rotary charities. Mr Bell, who was a former BBC war reporter and Britain's first independent MP for 50 years, was the MP for Tatton from 1997 to 2001. The event will take place at The Whately Hall Hotel, Banbury on Friday March 21. Tickets cost £35 to £40 and include a three-course meal. Details: banburycake.co.uk/news



A&E waiting

■ Almost 300 people waited more than four hours in county A&E departments in the week that ended on Sunday, new figures show. Of the 2,352 who attended Banbury's Horton General and Oxford's John Radcliffe hospitals, 284 waited more than four hours. The figures showed that 87.9 per cent were admitted, transferred or discharged within four hours, against a target of 95 per cent.

Banbury set to host the UK's first dedicated 'space school'

THE country's first "space school" is set to open in Banbury later this year.

Space Studio Banbury is planning on educating 14- to 18-year-olds who want to work in the space and hi-tech industries.

Lessons will focus on maths, science, business, geography, modern languages and computing.

The school will work with industry leaders like Intel, Rutherford Appleton Laboratories and Imperative Space.

Lessons will be a mixture of small-class teaching with major projects, where companies are directly involved.

They will provide work experience, take part in lessons, and may even give

employment opportunities for students. Principal designate Mike Grocott said: "Our students will work with scientists and engineers at the cutting edge, as well as achieving top grades in GCSEs and A levels.

"Whether students go to university or into an apprenticeship, Space Studio Banbury will provide an

excellent education for all careers based on science and maths."

Legal permission for the school to open was signed last week, and the school will open in September.

There are just 75 places in each year group, from Years 10 to 13, but only Years 10 and 12 will be taking students initially.

Flood aid for farms rapped

FARMERS have said that David Cameron has left them with insufficient support to recover from flooding, with Oxfordshire farms set to lose hundreds of thousands of pounds.

The Government opened a £10m Farming Flood Recovery Fund late last month, which is accepting applications from farmers who saw their businesses and homes wrecked by the winter floods.

But farmers from across the county say the fund is not enough and that more needs to be done.

By Alex Wynick

Farmers who submit applications for assistance could receive between £500 and £5,000.

But for one local farmer, Tim Hook, who has 1,700 acres of land, even the maximum amount would cover only a small percentage of his losses.

So far the loss of seed had cost about £22,000. He said: "Grass seed costs £60 an acre, which means even with £5,000 it would only buy 83 acres of seed. So you can see that, for

me, it doesn't go very far."

A spokesman for the National Farmers Union said: "It's better than nothing, but farmers have lost thousands of pounds. This really won't make much difference."

Mr Hook, 32, met with Mr Cameron last month when the Prime Minister visited his flooded fields and confirmed Oxfordshire farmers would get their share of a £10m pot of funding.

He said: "We are thankful for the help but it is a token gesture."

In response, Mr Cameron



FLASHBACK to February 14 when Prime Minister and Oxfordshire MP David Cameron met farmer Tim Hook to talk about flooding problems

said: "The Government is doing everything it can to help those affected.

"I recently met with farmers in my constituency when we discussed the Farming Recovery

Fund and how best it should be distributed.

"We need to encourage farmers to work together in sharing and reducing the costs so that the fund can go further."



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Shamed PC is sacked from the force

THE police officer convicted of stealing and selling the details of road-crash victims has been dismissed from the Thames Valley Police force.

Last month PC Sugra Hanif, from Bretch Hill, Banbury, was found guilty of conspiracy to commit misconduct in a public office.

The trial at Winchester

Crown Court heard that the 26-year-old stole and sold on road crash victims' details from the police computer database.

Co-defendant and Hanif's lover, Raza Khan, 27, of Ivy Road, Handsworth, Birmingham, was also convicted after they were found guilty of working together on the scam.

Now the force has confirmed that Hanif had been dismissed following a misconduct hearing.

Detective Chief Superintendent Tim De Meyer, head of professional standards, said: "The conduct of PC Hanif fell well below the standards that Thames Valley Police and the public expects of its

officers. This was a serious case of corruption and it is entirely appropriate that she was dismissed from the force."

Hanif was due to be appear at Winchester Crown Court for sentencing last Friday – but the hearing was rescheduled for yesterday, after the *Banbury Cake* deadline, due to a strike by lawyers.



Sugra Hanif

InBRIEF

Man and boy on rape charge

■ A MAN and a 15-year-old boy have been charged with carrying out a rape on New Year's Eve. The man, Waqas Hussain, of Prescott Avenue, Banbury, appeared on a video link from HMP Bullingdon on Friday for a hearing at Oxford Crown Court. Together with the teenager, who cannot be named for legal reasons, he faces one count of rape and one count of false imprisonment on December 31 last year. Neither has entered a plea and their next hearing will be on March 31.

Crash drama

■ AN elderly couple were taken to hospital after being cut from the wreckage of their car. Their vehicle collided with a van on Oxford Road at the junction with Chapmans Lane in Deddington, shortly before 11am on Friday. Police said the couple were taken to hospital as a precaution.

Green date

■ A NEW green group will hold its first public event with a swap shop on Saturday, March 22. Banbury's Community Action Group event will also include bike repairs and reducing food and energy bills and a chance to find out your carbon footprint. It will be held from 10am to midday at the New Futures Centre in Hilton Road.

■ New report says 100,000 more homes must be constructed

House-building blow for council planners

● From Page 1

councillors that Cherwell does not have a five-year supply of housing, the development of this site cannot be justified on that basis alone.

"This is unsustainable development beyond the built up limits of Banbury in an area of attractive, rolling countryside that Cherwell is seeking to preserve."

But across Oxfordshire, council leaders have yet to hold talks about where the latest increase in homes to be built will go. Already Oxford City Council has said that it would not be able to take its share.

The extra 100,000 homes, revealed in the Oxfordshire strategic housing market assessment, which had been carried out by independent consultants, will affect housing targets for years to come.

A spokesman for the Oxfordshire branch of the Campaign to Protect Rural England said it would resist any attempt to bulldoze Oxford's Green Belt.

Director Helen Marshall said: "The CPRE would fight strongly a review of the city's Green Belt.

We don't see that it would be necessary."

Councils are required by central government to carry out regular reviews to make sure they are building enough homes.

But the leader of Oxford City Council expressed doubt about whether his authority could achieve its "challenging" new housing target.

The need for a new strategic housing market assessment was

triggered by a Planning Inspectorate ruling that North Warwickshire Borough Council's 2008 assessment was out-of-date.

Oxfordshire's is a year older, so the county's district councils had to commission a new one between them.

The councils will now carry out an independent review of whether part of the allocations could be shared and put together plans to integrate the new houses into their Local Plans – their planning policy

blueprints for the future.

Cherwell District Council looks like it will now have the second highest house-building target of 22,800 by 2031. A spokesman for the authority said its Local Plan already set out a process for looking at housing spill-over from Oxford.

Vale of White Horse District Council leader Matthew Barber said: "The city council shouldn't presume that just because they are the city, they can spill out everywhere else."

Before the latest assessment

was released, Vale of White Horse District Council had expected to have to build 13,000 homes, but this has now grown to more than 20,000.

South Oxfordshire District Council, which was already trying to build around 11,000 homes by 2026, has now been told it needs to build 15,000 by 2031.

West Oxfordshire has the lowest allocation of all the district councils – 13,200 by 2031.



Helen Marshall of the Campaign to Protect Rural England

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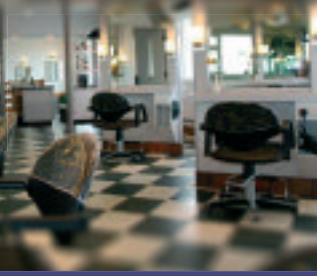
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InBRIEF

A £2.6m price tag for hotel

■ THE Banbury House Hotel has been put up for sale for £2.6m. The listed 1850 building offers a spacious reception lounge, an air-conditioned restaurant for 40 covers alongside a contemporary bar and three function rooms, with a combined banqueting capacity of 150. There are also three meeting rooms and 64 bedrooms at the Best Western-branded property. Colliers International director Peter Brunt said: "Access to the motorway network has led to rapid expansion in recent years. Our clients bought the hotel in 1994 and have developed the trade, moving it away from functions and aiming for the more profitable rooms trade."

Pregnancies

■ THE number of pregnancies among under 18s in the county has fallen by about a third since 1998, new figures show. That year there were 345 conceptions but fell to 234 in 2012, the most recent figures available, after a countywide education effort by schools and NHS bosses.

Staff tell of joy after inspectors award an 'outstanding' rating

Adoption team's Ofsted success

By Rachel Bayne

THEY help to find families for more than 6,000 children each year. And now the adoption services team, run by Parents and Children Together – known as PACT – has been graded as "outstanding" following an Ofsted inspection in January.

Senior adoption practitioner Helena Megson said: "It was a tremendous feeling when we were all told the news. We knew we were a strong agency, but it is great to have it in writing."

"The relief of being able to tell people is also nice, because before the official announcement we were all bouncing around the office but couldn't tell anyone."

Ms Megson, who has worked at PACT for 18 months, praised the team for its variety and strong leadership.

She said: "It is a testament to all the hard work that staff have put in and to what an inclusive and rewarding place PACT is to work."

"We hope we can continue to make more families."

During the inspection in January, an Ofsted spokesman praised the team for the way they prepared for and assessed prospective adopters.

He said: "The preparation of prospective adopters as parents is grounded in research and teaches them therapeutic parenting skills. It caters for individual needs and is valued by adopters who refer back to it when parenting their children."

"Adopters have an excellent understanding, gained through their preparation and assessment, about the impact children's early lives have on their development."

"They are attuned to their children's needs and help them to overcome their past experiences and deal with their feelings of loss."

The report also commended PACT for its ability to find



Staff of Parents and Children Together – Mark Reed, Linda Dawson Reid, Kirsty Muir, Clare Haines, Fiona Sweeney, Jeremy Older, Esther Ezquerro and Helena Megson – celebrate their Ofsted rating

placements that keep brothers and sisters together.

PACT's therapeutic services won the award for Voluntary Adoption Service of the Year in the BAAF National Adoption Week Awards 2013.

PACT chief executive Jan Fishwick said: "We are incredibly proud that our adoption service has been rated as 'outstanding' by Ofsted."

"The judgement recognises the many positives of the

different aspects of the adoption service and reflects the contributions of every member of the wider organisation that has brought about such an encouraging and confident result."



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■ Writer
Tim
Hughes
reveals
the big
line-up

Cue drum roll...

The country's "poshest" music festival has unveiled its line-up – with a mix of new pop acts and golden oldies stretching back over six decades.

X-Factor stars Sam Bailey and Luke Friend, pianist Jools



Festival
director
Hugh
Phillimore

Holland, '60s icon Georgie Fame, '70s art-rock band 10cc, '80s pop act Simple Minds and '90s girl power icon 'Sporty Spice' Mel C, are among the big names gracing this year's Cornbury Music Festival.

They will be joined, at Great Tew Park, near Chipping Norton, over the weekend of July 4-6, by pop diva Sophie Ellis Bextor, Soft Cell's Marc Almond, singer-songwriter Suzanne Vega and Dublin duo Hudson Taylor.

Also playing are pop acts The Feeling and Scouting for Girls, 19-year-old singing sensation Nina Nesbitt, Grammy-Award winning country new-girl Kacey Musgraves and songwriter Jon Allen.

International stars include Japanese composer Tomoyasu Hotei, who wrote the theme tune for the Quentin Tarantino film *Kill Bill*; Illinois country-rocker Lissie; New Jersey's Southside Johnny & The Asbury Jukes, featuring rhythm and blues singer Gary US Bonds; Atlanta-based hip-hop collective Arrested Development; and the Caribbean-flavoured Kid Creole & The Coconuts. Celtic fusion band Peatbog Faeries will close the festival on its Songbird Stage.

Sunday's big name headliner has yet to be revealed.

Since being launched 11 years ago, Cornbury has established itself as Oxfordshire's biggest music festival, last year attracting 15,000 people.

The event's stately home setting, inoffensive family-friendly line-up, Pimms bars and exclusive VIP area have earned it the nickname "Poshstock".

Its reputation as an upper-crust festival is enhanced by its A-list celebrity clientele, with Prime Minister David Cameron and his family regularly rubbing shoulders with other members of the Cotswold set, such as Jeremy Clarkson, former *Sun* and *News of the World* editor Rebekah Brooks, Blur bassist and celebrity cheesemaker Alex James, *Country File*'s Adam Henson and *Holby City* star Tina Hobley. Even members of the Royal Family have been seen enjoying the music.

Festival director Hugh Phillimore

said: "Once again I think we've managed to get a brilliant cross-section of great music – which is, of course, what we're all about."

"We have lots of old favourites, all great performers, along with some diverse new talent, from a double Grammy award-winning new country star to an X-Factor winner with a brilliant story."

"With old and new Top Ten artists, along with international faces and British national treasures to boot, it's going to be a lot of fun."

He added: "We are the poshest festival, but only in the old fashioned sense. I'm proud that it is family-friendly and safe. It will never be 'cool' but that's fine."

"I like the fact that the Scouts and Guides pick up the litter, that wallets get handed in with all the money still in them, and that we have only had two arrests in ten years. I'm a

family man and this is a family festival."

The festival began in 2004 at Cornbury Park, near Charlbury, but went into liquidation in 2010 with debts of £1.5m. It switched to its present site at Great Tew three years ago after being rescued by 3A Entertainment Ltd, one of the UK's biggest independent music promoters.

Cornbury Park, the home of Lord and Lady Rotherwick, is now home to the more hip and boutique Wilderness festival, which this year takes place from August 7-10.

As well as music, the festival features a traditional fairground, children's zone, arts and crafts and a Festival of Words hosted by the team behind television's *QI*.

● Tickets start at £170 (£200 with camping) from cornburyfestival.com. Single day, young people's, children's and VIP tickets are also available.

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that obviously helps. Many tradespeople have struggled since last year and I honestly feel that during the good times a minority perhaps didn't focus on customer care as much as they should have done. We make sure we turn up when we say we will, do the job the customer requires and leave their house as clean as a whistle. I often get comments back from customers on how they really didn't expect that sort of service which, in a way, is very sad for the service industry as a whole."

Cloudy2Clear service the Oxford, Banbury & Abingdon areas and Trevor is finding that his approach is a major factor

in his success. "The truth is that it's not just the personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes good business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people I've done work for, which just goes to show

how much a little bit of effort is appreciated."

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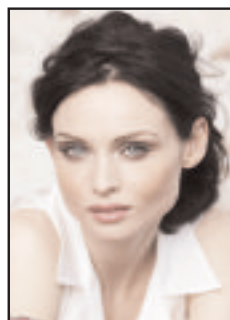
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Father was jailed over 'neglect' Inquest told of toddler's head injuries

THE father of a toddler who died of severe head injuries failed to tell doctors about a fall his son sustained until after his death, an inquest heard.

Taylor Mason, who lived with his family at his home in Humber Walk, Banbury, was admitted to Horton General Hospital with head injuries and bruising in the early hours of November 5, 2010.

The youngster was transferred to Oxford's John Radcliffe Hospital the same day BUT died of his injuries on November 12, 2010.

The inquest at Oxfordshire Coroner's Court heard that Taylor's father, Craig, did not tell the authorities that Taylor had fallen from a kitchen work surface in the afternoon of November 4 and bumped his head.

Mr Mason, then 33, of High Street, Middleton Cheney, was jailed for 15 months in May last year for neglect, but this was reduced to ten months on appeal.

DS Rob Storrar told the inquest: "In a nutshell, it was classed as neglect. Craig Mason had information in his possession that he chose not to share with the authorities."

In a police interview read to the inquest, Mr Mason said he would never intentionally hurt his son and was scared of telling the police about the fall.

He added: "It just went hectic. It is like a hole had opened up. I didn't know how to get out of the hole I had fallen into."

Taylor's mum, Karla, said: "I didn't find out about the fall until the Sunday. I just told Craig to deal with it."

By Emma Harrison

"He was the one who needed to tell somebody." She added that the legal advice he was given was not to say anything until his solicitor had spoken to the arresting officer.

Following the death, a serious case review was published by the Oxfordshire Safeguarding Children Board, in December last year, raising concerns about how the authorities dealt with the incidents.

Taylor's family first came into contact with social services in September 2009 when a nurse spotted bruising on the toddler. A paediatrician confirmed the bruises were not caused deliberately.

They were also contacted in June 2010 following an anonymous call that reported Taylor was seen with bruising, but the inquest heard the call was not recorded by social services, which the coroner said was "surprising and unfortunate," and no action was taken.

Mrs Mason told the inquest Taylor was a "bumpy child".

Oxfordshire Coroner Darren Salter recorded an open verdict and said the child sustained trauma on his skull, which caused a swelling on the brain that led directly to his death.

After the inquest, Oxfordshire County Council's deputy director for Children's Social Care, Lucy Butler, said of the serious case review: "Each organisation was given a clear set of recommendations, all of which have been implemented. We are pleased the coroner acknowledged that point."



Celebrating: Clockwise from front, are: Grimsbury councillor Margaret Cullip, parks officer Samantha Hartwell, deputy town clerk Mark Hassall, town mayor Nicholas Turner, park ranger Steve Berry and Colin Clarke

Playtime as park reopens

GRIMSBURY residents were celebrating after their Moorfields Park play area was reopened by town councillors.

The play area was reopened after a £120,000 refit.

New equipment was installed as part of the makeover organised by Banbury Town Council.

The chairman of the town council's general services committee, Colin Clarke, said: "I'm sure the finished area will meet everyone's approval and will be well used. The council seeks to keep play areas up-to-date and fit for purpose and this means making sure that playground equipment is modern and safe and meets the expectations of today's young people."

He added: "A great deal of thought went into the planning of Moorfields play area after listening to the wishes of local people."

£769,000 facelift for hospital unit

WORK has begun on a six-month project to refurbish the ultrasound department at Banbury's Horton General Hospital.

The £769,000 project will end patients having to wait in the corridor by creating dedicated waiting facilities for ultrasound patients, bosses said.

Existing ultrasound rooms would be larger and closer to the new waiting areas and a renovated reception area would be more accessible for the disabled. The reception, offices and two ultrasound rooms would be relocated within the department while the works took place.

The linking corridor,

between the emergency and X-ray department, would be closed.

Paul Brennan, director of clinical services at Oxford University Hospitals NHS Trust, which runs the hospital, said: "This refurbishment will result in greatly improved facilities for everyone using the department – both patients and staff."

"It will create a better environment, catering for patient privacy and dignity, and is improved to promote improved patient access and flow through the department, and will allow staff to monitor patients from a central reception area."

Special clinic for children launched

A CLINIC for children is being launched in a bid to bring down waiting times.

The rapid access clinic is opening today at the Horton General Hospital in Banbury.

It will allow GPs to refer urgent cases, which they do not think can wait for a normal appointment, to the Thursday afternoon clinic.

It will initially run fortnightly, but will change to a weekly event from next month.

The clinic will be run by an experienced paediatrician and will also provide follow-up appointments.

Dr Ranjini Mohan, Children's Consultant at

Oxford University Hospitals, said: "We hope that the new clinic will reduce patient waiting times to see a paediatrician, in cases where it is deemed to be urgent (within one to two weeks) but not urgent enough to require a visit to the A&E department, and so also reducing emergency department and ward attendances."

"It should also improve the patient experience as all ward clinics will now be seen in clinic, freeing up space as well as time for nursing and their medical colleagues to care for children admitted to the Horton."



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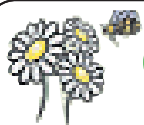
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Galley pendant in duck egg blue, £12.99, Dunelm



Amish Barn Star, Lovestruck Interiors

Teal is one of the coolest shades of the season. And if you want to decorate, or update with a few home accessories, the greeny-blue shade is pretty foolproof.

Chosen by Dulux as its colour of the year (with *Britain's Got Talent* judge Alesha Dixon launching its campaign) teal is easy on the eye and harmonises beautifully with the brown hues of natural materials such as wood and stone.

It's also very springlike: perfect for bringing the outside in. "A teal sofa in a luxury fabric, like velvet, would

create a stunning focal point," says Nichola McFall at The Fabric Box.

"Blend the colour with the rest of the scheme by adding teal accessories, cushions and ornaments, which will catch the eye."

We love this Abbey loveseat (above) in Teal (£475) from **Trade Secrets in Adderbury**. Add pops of different sapphire shades, such as this rich, embellished Blue Bazaar cushion from **Dunelm** (£12.99) or this Amish Barn Star (left) which comes in three different

● Continued on page 15

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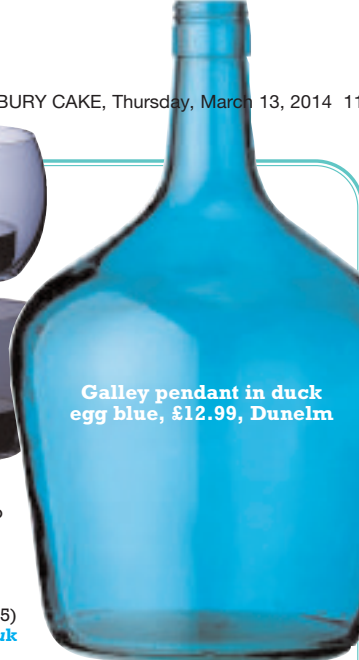
From page 13

sizes (and six colours) from **Lovestruck Interiors** (www.lovestruckinteriors.com — free delivery). Lovestruck's owner/director Amy, whose family all live in Church Enstone, hunts out forgotten and unloved furniture to give it a new lease of life as well as taking on commissions.

Amy said: "Judging by demand from our clients wanting bespoke furniture painting, blue seems to be the new grey! Dark blues such as Farrow & Ball's Stiffkey Blue and Annie Sloan's Abusson Blue enable us to work the dark look with key pieces of furniture in a room. Or go for brights with your home acces-



Galley pendant in duck egg blue, £12.99, Dunelm



sories (such as our Barn Stars) to give the room that extra pop of colour for Spring."

Or, if you're a little tentative about bold colour statements, small touches of blue, such as these peaceful tealights (£14.95) from www.annabeljames.co.uk

and Antiques of Woodstock, just up the road will look stunning against a white backdrop.

Whether you go for a dip into blue homewares or take the plunge into teal territory, it's a look that's sure to take you through to a hot summer.



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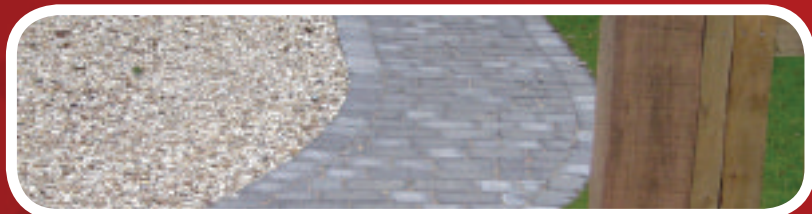
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Society set for packed year ahead

BANBURY Choral Society is all set to embark on an exciting year of new challenges – including a packed programme of choral music and the launch of a “friends” scheme

The choir begins its busy year, starting with its first concert of the season on Saturday, April 5, at St Mary's Church, Banbury.

There they will perform Mozart *Coronation Mass* and Haydn's *Nelson Mass*.

Mozart wrote his mass in 1779 to provide all the elements required for a grand ceremonial setting. Haydn's piece, composed almost 20 years later in 1798, is also stunningly crafted.

Under the baton of the society's conductor, Julian Harris, the choir will be joined once again by the virtuoso soprano, Helen Neeves, whose stunning interpretation of *Exultate Jubilate* with the choir last May so thrilled and delighted audiences.

She will be ably supported by

alto, Lorna Perry; tenor, Mark Bradbury, and bass, Dan Jordan.

The Oxford Sinfonia will also accompany the singers.

At this concert, the society will be promoting the launch of its new “friends scheme”, for followers who wish to support the choir and receive a range of benefits for a small annual subscription.

Thanks to Martin Fiennes, son of Lord and Lady Saye and Sele, the launch event, a summer evening concert, will be held at the stunning location of Broughton Castle on Friday, June 13.

Those showing interest in becoming “friends” of the choir will be invited to this special social evening of music and refreshments in the Great Hall of the castle.

The evening will include wine and canapés.

Anyone wishing to receive information about the new friends scheme prior to the April concert, can email the choir at info@banburychoralsoc.co.uk

Tickets for the April concert will

RIGHT: Picture from the past: The choir prepares to sing Handel's *Messiah*

be £12.50 for adults and children under the age of 12 (accompanied by an adult) attend free.

Tickets can be purchased from One Man Band, in White Lion Walk, Banbury; online at madeincherwell.org or from Banbury's Tourist Information Centre.

Tickets will also be available on the door, subject to availability.

Doors open at 6.45pm and there will be a licensed bar during the interval organised by LiveArts at St Mary's.



Flashback to 2012, with 'A Choral Jubilee Last Night of the Proms'

Pictures: James Adam

Dickens of a date at village's library

A ONE-man show of the classic Charles Dickens' tale *Great Expectations* will be performed at the Middleton Cheney Library later this month.

Actor James Hornsby, who has appeared in the BBC 1 soap *Doctors*, will bring the novel's characters to the stage in the style of Dickens' own book readings.

The event will take place at Middleton Cheney Library at 7.30pm on Thursday, March 20, will raise funds for the Middleton Cheney Library Supporters Group.

Tickets can be bought from the library and cost £7.50 for adults, or £4 for children. See: jameshornsby.co.uk

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13/03/2014



TAKING THE TIME Unique, easygoing and fun-loving Trowbridge woman, 42, loves clubs, the seaside and a happy life in general, would like to meet a dark, decent man, for a loving relationship. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 143389 or send a text to 80360

STRIKE FAST Bubbly, blonde, blue-eyed Devizes woman, 43, 5'6", enjoys listening to music, country walks and more, searching for a nice and genuine guy, to share caring times and the future. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 155233 or send a text to 80360

GENUINE PARTNER WANTED! Sincere, loyal, Christian Banbury female, 45, searching for a loving, kind-hearted and honest man, for friendship initially and hopefully a romantic relationship in the future. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 154128 or send a text to 80360

WALK IN THE PARK Sensitive, friendly and selfless Abingdon-On-Thames female, 46, searching for a spirited, warm male, for friendship and a fresh start in life. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 159088 or send a text to 80360

SPARKS FLYING Fun, curvy, green-eyed Wiltshire brunette, 46, looking for genuine, loving guy, to share some caring times and future happiness. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 85093 or send a text to 80360

QUALITY TIMES Sunny, loving, divorced, loyal Swindon girl, 47, 5'5", average-build, likes restaurants, walks, travelling, looking to find a tactful, endearing male, for love and an honest future together. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 138116

OF A GENUINE DESCRIPTION Laid-back Swindon female, 47, still looking for my Mr Right, to share and enjoy life with. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 126129

IT COULD BE US Spiritual, genuine Didcot woman, 47, attractive, fun, have grown up children, likes clubs, cafes, music, films, walking and reading, seeking a caring and optimistic man, for friendship first. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 132828 or send a text to 80360

DINE WITH ME Sincere, sociable Devizes lady, 48, non-smoker. I like country walks, pets, cosy evenings in, would like to meet a male who enjoys wine and dining for friendship and maybe more. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 162460 or send a text to 80360

I CAN MAKE YOU SMILE Sensitive, loving Abingdon female, 51, brunette hair, good sense of humour, enjoys dancing, music, current affairs, seeking a similar male, to enjoy life with. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 141600

START LIVING AGAIN Friendly, fun Oxfordshire divorced mum, 52, 5'7", grown up children, looking for a really caring guy, to build a relationship. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 165506 or send a text to 80360

EASY TO GET ON WITH Caring, loving, 52 year old Oxford female, 5'7", slim, brown hair, blue eyes, enjoys swimming, dog walking, GSOH, attractive, who is looking for a really caring guy, to build a relationship. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 165506 or send a text to 80360

ASK ME OUT! Garing, fit, 52 year old Chipping Norton female, 5'7", slim build, blue eyes, brunette, GSOH, enjoys swimming & dog walking, WLTMA a caring, loving, would like a relationship. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 164129 or send a text to 80360

LADY SEEKS GENT Outgoing, friendly, fit Bradford-On-Avon lady, 55, likes animals, walks, travel, seeking a similar male, for company and companionship. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 161075 or send a text to 80360

I'LL TREAT YOU RIGHT Sincere Swindon woman, 55, GSOH, fun personality, loves nights out, socialising and music, seeks a friendly bloke, to share lots of good times and more. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 104377 or send a text to 80360

JUST WANT TO BE HAPPY Friendly, bubbly, caring female, 56, with a great sense of humour. Looking for a genuine, nice, romantic, caring guy, 55-58, with a GSOH, 6', medium build, for company, friendship and maybe more. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 156609 or send a text to 80360

SHALL WE DANCE? Blonde, blue-eyed Swindon girl, 37, friendly nature, well-travelled and loyal, lover of life, searching for an active, educated man, who appreciates, food, wine and life in general. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 110895

THE LONG TERM Separated, easygoing Oxon female, 61, likes cooking, evenings in/out and much more, seeks friendly male, to enjoy life with. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 100451

LIVE THE LIFE YOU LOVE Cuddly Chipping Norton widow, 61, widowed with grown up family. Enjoys walking her 2 dogs and playing bowls for a local team. Seeks similar gent, for friendship and romance. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 132223 or send a text to 80360

SEEKING THE RIGHT MAN Separated, attractive Witney female, 61, 5'2", curvy, likes cooking, evenings in/out and much more, seeks life with. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 128289 or send a text to 80360

HAND IN HAND Widow lady, 61, works part-time, enjoys socialising, meeting new people, country walks, holidays, seeks placid gent to enjoy laughter and more. Witney Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 100300

STILL GOT IT Outgoing, bright brunette, 57, still gorgeous, enjoys music, dancing, cinema, walks & galleries, seeks slim N/5 male, 39-52, 5 Bucks. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 609532 or send a text to 80360

LET'S BE HAPPY TOGETHER Straight forward, kind and sincere Swindon woman, 68, N/5, likes music and current affairs, would like to meet a man, age 67-77, for fun, friendship and hopefully more. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 155949 or send a text to 80360

DOWN TO EARTH Happy-go-lucky Swindon female, young 72, loves walks, cooking, gardening, kisses, cuddles, looking for a N/5, clean-shaven man, for a loving relationship. Last caller please leave contact number. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 454288

WALK OF LIFE Self-assured, strong-minded and motivated Bampton girl, 72, just looking to meet a friendly, trustworthy male, for a special and lasting relationship. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 156046 or send a text to 80360

COMPLETE THE PICTURE Attractive, honest Swindon lady, 75, 5'5", loves cinema, theatre, national trust, walks, would like to meet a tall, non-smoking gent, under 70 with a GSOH. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 140415

TIME TO SHARE Lively Oxford male, 40, 5'10", med build, enjoys motorbikes, clubs, cinema, meals and more, searching for a loving woman, to share friendship and more. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 117999 or send a text to 80360

MUCH MORE Bright, upbeat and happy Oxfordshire man, 41, with personality, would like a date with a bubbly, tender, warm-hearted girl, to share the good times and great company. Could you be the one for me? Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 111253 or send a text to 80360

A LUCKY STRIKE Rational, positive and expressive Didcot man, 46, would like to find a funny, helpful female, for a special and lasting relationship. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 161546

YOUNG AT HEART? Genuine, honest, self-employed Oxford male, 47, 5'9", own home and car, likes the seaside and country walks, would like to meet a youthful, slim lady, age 55-65, to share a happy future with. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 157106 or send a text to 80360

FUN AND ADVENTURE Professional, caring male, 47, 5'9", N/5, own home and car, enjoys days out to the seaside, seeking young-at-heart, honest lady, to spend quality time with. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 146599

HOPE SPRINGS ETERNAL Kind, caring, down-to-earth Thames female, 47, enjoys music, country walks, cooking, reading, films, seeking a kind, sincere, slim female, 25+. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 137427

LOOK TO THE FUTURE Jovial, innovative and self-sufficient Reading gent, 47, wants to meet woman, to have fun and who knows. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 157382 or send a text to 80360

DON'T BE SHY, GIVE ME A TRY! Charming, happy, Abingdon male, 47, 6', enjoys pubs, clubs and nights out, but just as happy with a walk in the countryside and a night in by the fire with the right person. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 164128 or send a text to 80360

COME CLOSER Active, kind-hearted and upbeat Oxford bloke, 47, 6'3", looking to find an insightful, liberal woman, for fun and maybe a little romance. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 130080

READY FOR A NEW START Down-to-earth, responsive and energetic Wantage guy, 50, just looking to meet a stable, consistent girl, 30-55, for fun and maybe a little romance. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 162727 or send a text to 80360

ACCEPT EACH OTHER Easygoing Wantage male, 52, own car, works full-time, likes most sports, would like to meet an outgoing female, for good times leading to more. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 135164 or send a text to 80360

LOVE THE ONE YOU'RE WITH Friendly, warm-hearted Abingdon male, 52, good sense of humour, would like to meet a caring, well-matured girl, to enjoy good times together. If you're looking for true love then get in touch. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 15894

TIME FOR A CHANGE Friendly, expressive and vibrant Kidlington male, 52, with plenty of interests in life, would like to meet a life-loving, interesting lady, to share love, laughter and the future together. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 114479

EYE TO EYE Nice, caring, enjoys history, coastal walks, motorbikes, walking, cosy nights in, cooking, DIY, would like to meet a lady for companionship. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 152776 or send a text to 80360

ALL TO LOVE Kind and caring Oxfordshire male, 53, brown hair, green eyes, GSOH, searching for a nice genuine girl, for friendship first, then maybe more. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 461278

ETERNAL COMPANIONSHIP Outgoing, divorced Witney male, 53, pubs, meals, nice walks, family life, seeking an interesting woman, to get to know better. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 126741 or send a text to 80360

THE START OF SOMETHING NEW? Mature Oxford man, 55, 5'8", green eyes, N/5, likes music, walking and keeping fit, GSOH, would like to meet a nice, bright lady, for fun times and see where that leads to. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 158142 or send a text to 80360

TAKE CHARGE Bright, humorous and optimistic Banbury man, 56, would like a date with a chatty, active woman, for good times and great company. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 132836

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MAKE A DATE Young-at-heart, blue-eyed Watlington man, 58, GSOH, enjoys dancing, would like to meet a friendly lady, to get to know each other and see where that leads to. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 159203 or send a text to 80360

SHARING GOOD TIMES Upbeat Burford widower, 59, own cars, works full time, likes days in and out, countryside walks, driving, looking for a similar woman for companionship. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 117916 or send a text to 80360

COME ALIVE Sociable, adventurous and interesting Bampton lady, 59, 6'3", brown hair, average build, seeking an adaptable, self-confident lady, for friendship and maybe more. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 160696 or send a text to 80360

DECISION IS YOURS Honest, easygoing Yorkshire man (living in Banbury, 60, 5'6", slim build, self employed, likes gardening, cooking, cinema, travel, countryside, seeks genuine lady, to share life with. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 140930 or send a text to 80360

FUN AND LAUGHTER Honest, sensitive and decent Oxford man, 60, would like to find a warm-hearted, genuine, caring woman, to share laughter and enjoy life with. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 145981 or send a text to 80360

PASSION FLOWER Youthful, friendly Oxford chap, 60, 5'9", dark hair, enjoys cinema, bowling, active days out and socialising, searching for a loving, happy and loyal woman, to build a lasting relationship with. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 101122 or send a text to 80360

KEEPING WITH THE TIMES Happy go lucky, blue-eyed Banbury man, 60, 5'6", slim build, likes gardening, cinema, meals out, travel, country side and 60s music, seeks genuine lady, for friendship maybe more. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 156014 or send a text to 80360

SCRUBS UP WELL Optimistic, positive, 61, Witney male, I'm active with a good sense of humour. Having diverse interests and still scrubbing up well, seeking an attractive lady who is also active and enjoys life. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 161846 or send a text to 80360

POSITIVE ATTITUDE Fit Latino male, 62, looking for someone who can share fun, life in general and hopefully love with. Oxford. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 460522

SOUND LIKE YOUR MATCH? Tall, handsome, fit Abingdon male, 63, slim build, enjoys DIY, gardening, travel and walking, seeking a slim, petite, adventurous female, for good company and to enjoy a happy life with. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 159314 or send a text to 80360

MORE IN TIME Thoughtful, kind, self-employed Witney male, 65, loves cinema, theatre, eating out and more, searching for a serious-minded lady, for a loving and supportive relationship. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 109413 or send a text to 80360

LOVING LIFE Loyal, solvent North Oxfordshire gent, 67, 5'9", loves soul and motown music, coffee and theatre, searching for an attractive, interesting lady, 50-65, to share and explore interesting times. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 104998

A FRIEND INDEED Semi-retired Oxford male, 67, 6', slim build, likes playing bowls, home life, seeking an easygoing female, for good times and more. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 137812

LONG LASTING HAPPINESS Solvent, retired business gent, North Oxfordshire, 67, own home and car etc, with a love of cinema, travel and new adventure, seeks a nice, loyal, feminine lady, for companionship who then knows? Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 132140

OPEN YOUR HEART Cheerful, slim Banbury male, 70, 5'6", GSOH, likes sport, walks, animals and cosy evenings in, searching for a decent, positive lady, to settle down with and share a happy future. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 104901 or send a text to 80360

SEE FOR YOURSELF Youthful, faithful, liberal and sympathetic Middlesbrough man, 73, looking for a sweet, sensitive woman, for good times and great company. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 141502

GENT SEEKING LADY Genuine, thoughtful, 77 year old Bampton male, likes the countryside and places of interest, own car and enjoys day trips to the seaside. Would like to meet a female for companionship. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 165407

SOUL TO SOUL Fun, talkative and friendly Oxford guy, 79, likes social drinks from time to time, just hoping to meet a bubbly, confident lady, to build a loving, lasting relationship with. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 100937

GENT SEEKING LADY Very fit, 84 year old Oxford male, likes the countryside and places of interest, own car. Would like to meet a lady, 70-80 for days out and evenings in, friendship and companionship. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 166722



FRIENDLY COMPANION Straight, kind Bicester woman, 69, retired and missing the social aspect of work so looking to find some female friends or an established social group, for days out and friendship. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 147186



MADE FOR EACH OTHER Happy go lucky Abingdon-On-Thames male, 47, 5'9", medium build, short hair, likes walks, cinema, social drink, quiet pubs, seeking a nice guy, for friendship and hopefully more. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 166651 or send a text to 80360

SHOW YOUR COLOURS Honest, old fashioned, non-scene Oxford male, 57, fit, clean living, not into pubs, clubs or crowds, seeking a mature male, for friendship, days out, holiday and fun times. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 85303

MAKE A CONNECTION Interesting, friendly Oxford male, 65, varied interests, loves walks, reading, travel and more, seeks sensitive male, similar age, for a loving relationship. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 857624



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MEANINGFUL TIMES Active, outgoing Trowbridge female, 58, loves cinema, seaside, travelling and animals, would like to meet a man for company leading to a possible relationship. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 117215 or send a text to 80360

NEED THAT SOMEONE SPECIAL Intelligent, attractive, well dressed, 60, widow, enjoys keeping active and swimming, looking for a kind, intelligent, active male, for friendship, possibly more. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 151752 or send a text to 80360

LOOKING TO SETTLE DOWN Youthful, outgoing, honest Trowbridge woman, 61, 5'6", slim build, brunette, glasses, N/5, enjoys clubs, car boot sales, bingo, gardening and more, seeking that special man, to settle down with. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 159284 or send a text to 80360

LOVE IS FOR SHARING Easygoing, sincere Trowbridge lady, 61, med build, 5'6", GSOH, N/5, enjoys good social life, darts, music, walking & reading, searching for that special guy, N/5 and caring for dates & more. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 116161

LISTEN TO YOUR HEART Happy go lucky Warminster female, 63, looking for a nice kind and reliable man to share good times together and more. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 120544

LET'S BE HAPPY TOGETHER Sociable, witty Oxford lady, 66, would like to meet that special man, for companionship, a lasting friendship and see where it leads to from there. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 158099

DO IT TOGETHER Down-to-earth, retired Bicester lady, 68, enjoys car boot sales, bingo, eating out and generally always up for a laugh, would like to meet a kind, caring gent, for good times and maybe more. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 158321 or send a text to 80360

BE MY GOAL Lonely lady, 60, 5'7", simply the best, kind, loving & caring, likes antiques, car boot sales & eating out, seeks male for friendship & relationship. Bicester. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 940563 or send a text to 80360

HONEST COMPANY SOUGHT Kind, caring Oxford female, 79, likes country drive, pub lunches, fishing, seeking a tall man, with a good sense of humour, to share life with. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 134388



SHARE SOME TIME Adaptable, upbeat and optimistic Oxford man, 34, would like to find a warm, laid-back girl, for good times and great company. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 134837

CARING & CONSIDERATE Kind-hearted, active Oxford man, 37, enjoys staying fit, playing sports and fine dining with friends and family, would like to meet a similar female, for companionship and love. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 147290 or send a text to 80360



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Output date: 10/03/2014

Sand and sandals epic fails to better original

300: RISE OF AN EMPIRE (15, 102 mins) Action/Fantasy/Romance. Sullivan Stapleton, Eva Green, Rodrigo Santoro, Callan Murphy, Jack O'Connell, Lena Headey, Hans Matheson, David Wenham, Igal Naor. Director: Noam Munro.

Pecs flex, torsos ripple and bearded men growl, but it's a woman scorned who spills the most blood in Noam Munro's turgid sequel (of sorts) to the 2007 swords and sandals epic.

Based on Frank Miller's graphic novel *Xerxes*, *300: Rise Of An Empire* unfolds before, during and after the fierce Battle of Thermopylae chronicled in the first film.

Zack Snyder, who helmed the original and has since made *Watchmen* and *Man Of Steel*, defers the director's throne to Noam Munro. He continues the heavily stylised, slow-motion slaughter and eye-popping production design.

Once again, colours are saturated and dark intensified, although jettisons of blood have lost their rich scarlet hue in the sequel, presumably to guarantee a 15 certificate given the profusion of decapitations and dismemberments.

Carnage is unrelenting, as are the legions of swaggering beefcakes with impressive sweat-glistened six-packs, who allow their perfect gym-toned bodies to be impaled and maimed as they fight for the honour of Persia and Greece.

Spartan Queen Gorgo (Lena Headey) is both protagonist and

narrator, succinctly summing up events at Marathon where courageous Greek general Themistokles (Sullivan Stapleton) fires the arrow that slays Persian King Darius (Igal Naor) in front of his son, Prince Xerxes (Rodrigo Santoro).

"It was Darius's son Xerxes's eyes that had the stink of destiny about them," remarks Gorgo, exemplifying the overblown floweriness of the script.

Darius's adopted daughter Artemesia (Eva Green), who was raped and discarded by Greek soldiers, pledges to avenge the king.

She masterfully manipulates Xerxes in his hour of grief, transforming the weak-tempered mortal into a strutting God-King, then leads the Persians into battle on the high seas while Xerxes overcomes King Leonidas (Gerard Butler) at Thermopylae.

All that stands between Artemesia's vast armada is a few hundred boats under the command of Themistokles, flanked by close friend Aeschylos (Hans Matheson), brave warrior Scyllias (Callan Murphy) and his son Calisto (Jack O'Connell).

300: Rise Of An Empire intercuts footage from the first film with the breathtaking action at sea. Clashes between the Greek and Persian ships are choreographed with aplomb and the 3D format comes into its own as hulls smash through the bellies of enemy ships.

But Stapleton fails to fill Butler's huge sandals.

He has neither the imposing



A scene from *300: Rise Of An Empire*. Pictured is Rodrigo Santoro, as Xerxes

Picture: PA Photo/ Warner Bros

physical presence nor the deep growl of his predecessor, so when Themistokles delivers a rousing call to arms - "Let it be shown that we chose to live on our feet rather than die on our knees!" - our blood isn't even slightly stirred.

Green is more convincing as a vengeful harpie, who gleefully cuts off the head of an underperforming subordinate then steals a final kiss before tossing the dripping noggin at the camera.

Date her at your peril.

CakeWhat's on

Music

SATURDAY: Jacqueline du Pre Music Building, St Hilda's College, Cowley Place, Oxford: Schubert Ensemble of London. An afternoon encounter with the members of the Schubert Ensemble, who will talk about their personal experience and approach to being a chamber musician, will answer questions from the audience, and will introduce the pieces they are playing in their evening concert at Iffley Church Hall. Promoted by Iffley Music Society as part of the weekend festival. £5. 2.30-4pm. £5 (student free). 01865 779663.

Sheldonian Theatre, Broad Street, Oxford: St John Passion. Oxford Bach Choir performing with London Mozart Players and Nicholas Cleobury, conductor. Booking advised. 7.30pm. £42 £28, £18, £10. 01865 244806

Town Hall, St Aldates, Oxford: Concert of works by Tchaikovsky and Shostakovich. Guilhermina Suggia prize-winning cellist Michael Petrov can be relied upon

to give a most impressive performance. Tickets from Oxford Playhouse. 7.30pm. £15, £12, student/benefit £5, under-16s free. 01865 305305.

SUNDAY: Blue Boar, Goddards Lane, Chipping Norton: Mike Maddams. 5pm. 01608 643525. **Holywell Music Room, Holywell Street, Oxford:** An Afternoon of Grand Opera with Kennington and District United Church Choirs. 2.30-5.15pm. Free, with a collection for Air Ambulance. 01865 735885.

Theatre

The Mill Arts Centre, Spiceball Park, Banbury:

Mar 13, film screening, *Captain Phillips*. 7.30pm. Certificate 12A. £6, under-16s £4.

Mar 15, *Old MacDonald Had A Farm*. Relive the delights of this tale with live action, puppetry and animation. noon. £7, family £23. Mar 15, *Bring Back The Winter Gardens*. Featuring The Duckworths, Big Baloosh,

Mississippi Disco and Rufus Goodlove. 7.30pm. £11 - standing event.

Mar 16, Banbury's Got Talent. 7pm.

Mar 19, *The Seagull*. Chekhov's work interweaves comic and tragic threads in the lives of a famous actress, her son and their lovers. 7.30pm. £14, concession £12. Box office: 01295 279002.

The Theatre, Spring Street, Chipping Norton:

Until Mar 12, *Alarms and Excursions*. A series of short farces, conceived and presented as a single night of non-stop laughter. 7.45pm, matinee Mar 8 3pm. £14, concessions £12, school £8.50.

Mar 18, Alan Carr, *Work In Progress*. Sold out. Mar 19, *The Adventures of Alvin Sputnik: Deep Sea Explorer*. Projection, puppetry and live music tell a one-man micro-epic about enduring love and the end of the world. £14, concession £12. 7.45pm. Box office: 01608 642350.

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Team's worst run for 25 years

Latest Calor League table

PREMIER DIVISION										
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts			
H Hempstead	34	26	3	5	108	26	81			
Chesham Utd	34	23	4	7	85	39	73			
St Albans	35	20	7	8	74	43	67			
Cambridge	32	20	5	7	69	39	65			
Stourbridge	33	18	5	10	87	40	59			
Bideford	36	16	11	9	62	45	59			
Corby Tn	32	15	6	11	51	45	51			
*Poole Tn	26	14	9	3	48	27	48			
Hungerford	30	14	5	11	50	33	47			
Arlesey Tn	36	13	8	15	55	60	47			
Hitchin Tn	32	12	7	13	51	40	43			
Weymouth	32	13	4	15	49	65	43			
Biggleswade	30	10	12	8	52	40	42			
St Neots Tn	35	12	6	17	58	60	42			
Redditch Utd	33	13	3	17	44	69	42			
Burnham	33	11	8	14	47	61	41			
Frome Tn	34	11	7	16	43	59	40			
Banbury Utd	33	12	4	17	51	74	40			
Truro City	33	10	9	14	47	66	39			
Chippenham	34	11	5	18	45	67	38			
AFC Totton	32	6	4	22	43	98	22			
Bashley	30	4	3	23	27	83	15			
Bedford Tn	35	3	5	27	37	104	14			
*3pts deducted										
● Hinckley record expunged										

BANBURY United's defensive woes continued at Hitchin on Saturday as they crashed to their seventh successive Calor League, Premier Division, defeat.

In their worst run of losses for 25 years, Edwin Stein's men have plummeted down the table, and conceded 31 goals.

The game was effectively all over after 20 minutes with Hitchin tearing Banbury apart and scoring three goals.

Callum Donnelly put the Canaries ahead after two minutes with a deflected shot past Kwame Fordah in the Banbury goal.

Mitchell Bryant made it 2-0 after 11 minutes, shooting home from the edge of the penalty area, and Matt Lench got the third after being set up by Donnelly.

A long-range effort from Donnelly struck the

Hitchin Tn	5
(Donnelly 2, Bryant 11, Lench 19, Martin 52, King 90+2)	
Banbury Utd	0

Banbury woodwork before the visitors mounted a decent attack, with Adeyinka Talabi's shot from the edge of the area being tipped onto the bar.

Seven minutes after the break, Simon Martin headed home a Donnelly corner.

Hitchin completed the scoring in stoppage time when Michael King ran through and stroked the ball past Fordah.

Banbury Utd: Fordah, Mullarkey, Fathers, Isaac (Green 61), Collins, Obeng, Dias, Bevis, Talabi, Martin, Evangelinos. Subs not used: Pinto, Cray. Attendance: 322.



Banbury United manager Edwin Stein

STARS with Claire Petulengro

Service provided by IMS Leeds LS1 8LB. Calls cost 60p per minute at all times

ARIES

Mar 21-Apr 19

Take a look at yourself in the mirror Aries and remind yourself of who you are and what you stand for. It's clear from your chart you need a little more self empowerment. Kick starting your changes begins with you actively going for your dreams, something you've so far found every excuse not to do. Give me a ring now so I can tell you why I know you're destined for such great things.

0906 585 4360

LIBRA

Sep 23-Oct 22

Thank heavens! Venus and Mars make your personal life the happy place it should be. You no longer worry how things look to those watching but think only of how you feel. Don't get me wrong, you're not going to throw your presents in the face of those in your past but you are going to live in the present from now on. Ring me to hear why commitment is now such an appealing word again.

0906 585 4366

TAURUS

Apr 20-May 20

Someone you thought you would get on with has turned out to be more of a difficult personality than you'd imagined and can this week make your life a more difficult place to be. Don't be afraid to put some distance between you. You had a plan for the next seven days and it can still work if you take control instead of being controlled. Ring now so I can get you into a more positive frame of mind.

0906 585 4361

SCORPIO

Oct 23-Nov 21

This is a really great week for you professionally. Both your work contacts and personal ones can help you to get your career not only back up to where it was but you can now surpass your wildest dreams and do a job you enjoy. That's why you can and should be making some serious money this year. Give me a ring now to hear how to handle those who are desperate for 'that' confrontation.

0906 585 4367

GEMINI

May 21-Jun 20

If you're lacking energy, then reschedule your week so that you can get the rest and relaxation your body and mind needs. There are some big undertakings coming your way and it's only by feeling at your best that you will be able to tackle them successfully. Mercury helps you see the faces who can help you. You just have to ensure it's the real you they're really meeting. Ring now for help and advice.

0906 585 4362

SAGITTARIUS

Nov 22-Dec 21

Events that occur this week take your breath away and allow you to get your priorities in order. Before, you were looking at life as if the glass was half empty but from this week onwards it is most definitely half full. Someone in your career is making you promises they can't keep. Don't play their game, but focus on what you know can work out. Ring now to stay in that driving seat.

0906 585 4368

CANCER

Jun 21-Jul 22

Familily comes to the fore this week and you have to think of ways to placate a rather difficult personality. What we seem to have here is a case of two similar characters clashing and it's only by agreeing to disagree that you will find this eases. Solo business ventures promise success and for once you don't need to be afraid to put your own money into projects. Ring now for clear vision.

0906 585 4363

CAPRICORN

Dec 22-Jan 19

It's a harsh fact to have to admit but you can't help those who don't want to help themselves and you've been spending far too much time on someone who would not have given you the same consideration. In fact, they didn't earlier in the year. Capricorn! Mars helps you to move into a better and more exciting circle of friends, but now without jealousy from old ones. Ring now for a tactical plan.

0906 585 4369

LEO

Jul 23-Aug 22

You could not find happiness previously because you did not think you deserved it. I hope though, that after the last two months' very dramatic events, you realise that you can and should be aiming high. You can be treated in the way you desire if you believe in you again. Saying no to the things you don't want this weekend is where you need to begin. Phone me to begin your magical journey.

0906 585 4364

AQUARIUS

Jan 20-Feb 18

You know, you really do need to slow down and take in the view of life at the moment Aquarius. It's almost as if you're on a train on which you are able to stop and get off should you so desire, but that you're so intent on getting to the final destination you don't care what pleasures you could be missing. You would though, if you could see the romantic opportunity passing you by. Ring now for insight.

0906 585 4370

VIRGO

Aug 23-Sep 22

Problems with research and paperwork causes unnecessary hold ups and make it impossible for you to stick to the schedule you've made for yourself. There is a way around this though Virgo, and that is to make your pace a more realistic one. You could also accept the help that other professionals are offering you. Stubbornness doesn't become you. Ring now to put the flexibility and fun back into life.

0906 585 4365

PISCES

Feb 19-Mar 20

It's time you were more honest with your close ones about what is on your mind. You see Pisces, you've been talking about everything but what is really on your mind. Use this weekend to lay your cards on the table, and I mean all of them if you are to see if you hold the winning hand. Instant attractions at the end of the week bring explosive thoughts and actions. Ring now for a preview.

0906 585 4371

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IS THIS YOUR **GOLDEN** OPPORTUNITY?

ANTIQUES VALUATION ROADSHOW COMES TO BANBURY

IN ALMOST every home in the country there is a corner where something of value lies hidden away that could be turned into cash.

That's the message organisers of the Pastcenturies Valuation Roadshow wish to impart as the company visits selected venues throughout England.

Often valuable and antique articles have been hidden away for security reasons and lie forgotten about. The good news is that many of these items have increased in value in recent years and are now sought after by collectors and dealers alike.

With many years of experience, and using the latest in information technology, we can value practically every type of object from paintings to porcelain, glass, bronze, art, jewellery. In fact most items of interest.

Pastcenturies are holding Antiques Venues throughout the Country. On a recent Roadshow an elderly gentleman had quite a surprise. He produced an 18 carat Gold pocketwatch. Although the watch was damaged beyond repair he received £720 for the Gold content alone. At the same event a lady was paid £600 for a group of World War One medals she had thought were of little value. These are common occurrences at the roadshows.

Free Valuations

With it's free valuation service, and no obligation to sell, what is there to lose? Bring along anything you think of interest, there's no limit to the amount of items. It may be well worth your while!

To contact us telephone: 01273 509333



Trade winds from the East

Chinese porcelain, silver, jade and antiques have travelled the World for centuries landing in many countries. These days the greatest market are the Chinese themselves, buying back many articles and creating a huge demand for quality items. Bring along anything you think of interest for a free valuation.

Collectables

These days many items are of interest to collectors. Bring along any items of Amber, Coral, Jade, Ivory Jet etc. Old Silver Jewellery and Collectables eg: Snuff & Vesta Boxes, Photo Frames, Cigarette & Cigar Boxes. Pottery and Porcelain: Carltonware, Susie Cooper, Poole. Whitefriars Glass. Quality Wristwatches: Omega, Longines, Rolex. Dunhill Lighters, Coin Collections, Tinplate Toys, China Headed Dolls, Decorative items, Furniture, Lamps, Oriental Carpets, Signed Memorabilia etc - the list is endless.

The Mighty Pen



Fountain Pens, once a symbol of elegance, are once again in demand. Makers such as Mont Blanc, Watermans, Parker, Scheaffer and Conway Stewart are sought after. If you have a fountain pen, pen set, or other writing items bring them along for a valuation or cash offer.

War Medals & Memorabilia



Medal Collectors have become increasingly anxious to purchase all types of medals and memorabilia, particularly from WWI and earlier campaigns, but we are interested in all Medals from all countries, many which have increased in value in recent years. Do bring along any items you think may be of interest for a free valuation or an excellent CASH offer

Coin Collections



Having clientele for rare and collectable coins the Roadshow is able to value and purchase many types of coins and collections. With high bullion prices being paid, Gold and Silver coins are in high demand, but can often have a premium above their bullion value. The Roadshow is offering excellent prices on all of your items.

Banbury Roadshow Details

The Roadshow will be held at the Whately Hall Hotel in Banbury. The Hotel is well known situated in the town centre near the Banbury Cross. They will be there for Two Days Only on Tuesday the 18th & Wednesday the 19th of March from 10am-4pm. Ample parking is available in the Hotel car park, the entrance is between the Hotel & the Odeon Cinema next door.

If you cannot attend and would like a home appointment please telephone:

01275 509333

CASH OFFERS

The Pastcenturies Valuation Roadshow is in your area offering free professional valuations or instant cash offers on many antique and collectable items. So take a good look, search out any things you think of interest, and bring them along to the Roadshow. You may find it's well worth your while.

Bring along any articles of jewellery, silver, furniture, clocks and watches, oil paintings and water colours, porcelain and pottery, glassware, ivory, bronze, etc.

Classic Wristwatches	Precious Gemstones	Jewellery	Object D'Art
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<p>Oil Paintings & Watercolours</p>	<p>Antique Necklaces</p>	<p>Antique Silverware</p>	<p>Porcelain & Glass</p>
<p>Jade, Amber, Coral, etc</p>	<p>Lalique Figure Moorcroft Vase</p>	<p>Whitefriars Vase Doulton Figure</p>	

GOLDEN OPPORTUNITY

With HIGH prices being paid for Gold many articles have risen in value! Why not take advantage? For an up to date valuation or for an excellent CASH offer on your articles of Gold, there has never been a better time to search out and bring them along to the Roadshow:

OLD - WEDDING BANDS - SIGNET RINGS - BRACELETS - BANGLES
GOLD CHARMS - CUFFLINKS - STUDS - GOLD COINS SOVEREIGNS
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BROKEN ITEMS SUCH AS: RINGS - BROOCHES - LOCKETS
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Silver has also risen in value so bring along items such as:

OLD PRE-1947 SILVER COINAGE - SILVER CIGARETTE CASES -
CUTLERY - TEA SETS - TRAYS - BROKEN AND DAMAGED ARTICLES

Bring along any items of interest, you will be surprised at their value.

WANTED IMMEDIATE CASH SETTLEMENT

The Pastcenturies Antique Valuation Show is on the road offering the highest possible cash settlements for all your items of Gold, Silver, jewellery, watches and objet d'art. We offer immediate cash payment.

- We require: all Diamond & Gem set jewellery.
- Wristwatches, top prices paid: Omega, Rolex, Longines
- Old oil paintings, watercolours, antique silverware.
- Military medals, coin collections, vintage fountain pens.
- Ivory, Bronze, Glass, Pottery, Porcelain, Object D'art.
- Studio pottery: Clarice Cliff, Moorcroft, Doulton, Beswick.
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